

Career Majors grant awarded to 37 schools

The Department of Workforce Development awarded 37 high school and post-secondary consortiums \$1,309,726 through a series of Career Majors grants.

The Career majors initiative is designed to increase high school student motivation and achievement by helping them make the connection between what they are learning in school and their future opportunities.

More than 60 high schools and 23,000 students throughout Indiana are now benefiting from this initiative.

Rigorous academics, career pathways, curriculum integration and articulation agreements help prepare students for a seamless transition from high school to post-secondary opportunities.

Employment Trends

April Unemployment Rate

Indiana's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 5 percent. This is four-tenths of a percentage point below the national rate of 5.4 percent.

2,015,600 million Hoosiers were employed during April.

Indiana's April unemployment rate was lower than Michigan, 6 percent; Ohio, 5.8 percent; Illinois, 5.9 percent; and Kentucky at 5.2 percent.

April Unemployment Insurance Stats

Number of UI Claims Filed:

Week of 4-3-04	68,929
Week of 4-10-04	63,290
Week of 4-17-04	62,592
Week of 4-24-04	59,573

Indiana@Work

Indiana@Work provides help to Indiana employers who are seeking a specialized and highly skilled workforce. As part of this effort, the state will increase the number of job fairs it holds to attract workers to targeted industries.



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Developments

HOOSIER WORKERS & LIFELONG LEARNING ONLINE NEWS

Breaking News

Workforce Resource Center officially opens in Marion

In an effort to help dislocated workers in the Madison and Grant county area, DWD and local officials came together to open the new Workforce Resource Center in Marion. The center is funded through a \$200,000 grant from DWD and will assist area dislocated workers, especially those workers impacted by the closure of Thomson Consumer Electronics.

With the DWD grant, staff was hired, equipment and computers were purchased, along with educational and training materials. The 4,500 square foot facility that houses the center was donated by the city, and was recently refurbished. In addition, Thomson Consumer Electronics donated some office furniture.

"This was, and will remain a total team effort. I think it's important to know that we are all in this for the long haul – and I hope the opening of the center symbolizes that," said Al Degner, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. "We hope this center helps make these workers' transition and ultimate rebound a little bit easier."

DWD becomes ISO 9001:2000 compliant

DWD announced that five of its divisions have met performance standards required by ISO 9001:2000 international measurements of quality. This is a first for any of Indiana's state agencies. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is a network of national standards institutes from 148 countries working in partnership with international organizations, governments, industry, business, and consumer representatives and maintains over 13,700 quality standards. ISO 9001 is a quality system that provides a measuring tool for managers within organizations.

"ISO 9001:2000 has an important role in helping our agency achieve our mission of improving workers skills and helping companies create new jobs," said Department of Workforce Development Commissioner Alan Degner. "The standard outlined by the ISO 9001:2000 quality management system allows us to serve Hoosiers even when staff vacancies or high workloads occur. We have taken an important step forward in our goal to develop and support a world-class workforce in Indiana by achieving this first round of ISO 9001 compliance."

Company will utilize Indiana@Work to match workers with new positions

Great Dane Trailers is planning to add 200 new jobs to its Brazil plant. Through the Indiana@Work program, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development will provide up to \$16,960 to assess the skills of as many as 600 individuals to fill the new positions, including those of first line supervisor and assistant trailer builder.

With the Indiana@Work system, Great Dane will be able to identify the skills needed to fill the 200 positions and then assess the skills of applicants to help make hiring decisions. Professional job analysts will work with the company to create specific job profiles to better match applicants with the new positions.

Governor Kernan emphasized that one of the many benefits of Indiana@Work is that information on all of the applicants who go through the skills assessment process will be kept in DWD's job database.

"DWD can help any of these individuals with training needs they may have to upgrade their skills, as well as continue to match them with possible job opportunities," Kernan said.